

That's what they did, and now we have the bust in real estate values and almost 40 percent of Americans are technically insolvent. That's why this bill starts to turn around that maldistribution of this Nation's wealth and income. That's why it should be supported today.

CONGRESS SHOULD ACT IN BIPARTISAN FASHION TO ADDRESS OUR NATION'S ECONOMIC RECESSION

(Ms. RICHARDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, over the last couple weeks House committees, including Transportation and Infrastructure, on which I serve, have worked hard to craft an economic recovery package that would address the deep recession problems that we have. Likewise, over the last couple of months, we've worked with President Obama, and we have listened to economists, over 10 of them, all who say action needs to happen now.

Today, President Obama will meet with my colleagues, congressional Republicans, in a bipartisan fashion to really explain why this package is the best way to move forward and to turn this economy around. Conservative economic policies have not worked. In fact, we haven't produced jobs, and there has not been a production of economic prosperity.

The American people demanded change in November. The Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Package strives to do just that, helping to bring American jobs and providing 90 percent of middle Americans an immediate tax cut.

Mr. Speaker, if congressional Republicans really listen to President Obama today, they will support the legislation, and they will join us for change.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY PACKAGE INVESTS IN THOSE HARDEST HIT BY ECONOMY

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, as the economic recession worsens, millions of Americans are in financial trouble and looking for some immediate assistance, but help is on the way. Tomorrow this House will vote on the Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act that will provide 3 to 4 million jobs here in America.

Those hit hardest by the economic crisis are the ones we need to help first, and we are doing that by extending unemployment benefits to people in America, millions who are still looking for jobs. It is difficult to find a job when thousands are being cut. Yesterday a record number of jobs were cut.

Economists say one of the best ways to stimulate the economy is to put the

money in the hands of people who will spend it immediately, spend it on necessities, and that's people who are out of work. That's something we are going to do.

It's also critical to give those people health insurance, and we will provide the States with money so that they can continue to provide Medicaid to those people who need that assistance. There are nearly 7 million unemployed Americans who need health insurance through COBRA. That will also be extended.

Mr. Speaker, this economic recession has hurt millions. This Congress will respond and provide assistance.

PUERTO RICO AND TERRITORIES DESERVE TO BENEFIT FULLY FROM ONGOING EFFORTS TO REVITALIZE ECONOMY

(Mr. PIERLUISI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1. As the Congressional Budget Office has just confirmed, the bill will have a very positive impact on our Nation's economy.

I am particularly grateful for the inclusion of Puerto Rico and the other U.S. territories in most of the bill's provisions. The territories are an integral part of the United States and thus deserve to benefit fully from our ongoing efforts to revitalize the economy.

As the final version of this bill is worked out, I will continue to seek more equitable treatment for the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico in those few areas where I believe improvements should still be made.

For example, I will continue to make the case that Puerto Rico should receive an increase in Medicaid funding that better reflects the island's legitimate needs and does more to address the negative impact that the current spending cap is having on the Commonwealth's finances.

SUPPORT THE STIMULUS PACKAGE

(Mr. TEAGUE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TEAGUE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with America's economy in deep trouble. Families from Hobbs to Silver City and across the country are struggling. They are wondering if they will be able to make ends meet.

We must act now to help those families. I know that we won't all agree with every little part of the economic recovery bill that we are considering. I have some concerns myself, but I intend to support the package, not because it's perfect, but because it will create jobs and get our economy going. After all, that's what the people sent us here to do. If this bill passes, 684,000 New Mexicans will get a tax break and over \$400 million will go into infra-

structure and investments to create jobs and support economic development.

I am also pleased that the bill includes language from two bills that I introduced as a stimulus package for southern New Mexico to create green jobs and give families with kids a tax break. I urge my colleagues to pass this stimulus legislation so we can put America back on track and back to work.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 181, LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT OF 2009

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 87 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 87

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (S. 181) to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, and to modify the operation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, to clarify that a discriminatory compensation decision or other practice that is unlawful under such Acts occurs each time compensation is paid pursuant to the discriminatory compensation decision or other practice, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor; and (2) one motion to commit.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDEN). The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. For the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only. I yield myself such time as I may consume. I also ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 87.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Maine?

There was no objection.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 87 provides for consideration of S. 181, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009. This measure is identical to the version of the bill that was passed by this House on January 9 of this year by a significant vote of 247-171. The bill is also virtually identical to the version adopted in the 110th Congress.